July 12, 1971

Mr. David W. Belin
Herrick, Langdon, Belin and Harris
300 Home Federal Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Mr. Belin:

Please allow me to thank you very much for your letter of July 8 relating to the Warren Commission. I truly appreciate your comments.

I am in sympathy with your desire not to make extracts of your files available to researchers since that is a matter for you to decide. I would appreciate it, however, if you could simply tell me whether you ever wrote a "history" in compliance with Mr. Rankin's April 15, 1964 memorandum previously enclosed. Understand, I am not now asking for a copy of the memo, I would just like to know if you wrote it.

I am in complete agreement with you that the deception of large segments of world opinion is an issue of concern, and if the assassination sensationalists to which you refer are responsible for falsely leading the world to view the Warren Commission Report as inaccurate, I am most anxious to expose the "reckless conduct" of these people.

In fairness, however, I do believe there are two sides to every story. My research has disclosed instances of what may be viewed as "reckless conduct" on the part of Warren Commission investigators, plus indications that the Report is in fact "inaccurate."

This is principly why I write you a second time. I would like you to help me erase the slate, so to speak, so that I may be free to expose the reckless conduct of the sensationalists, knowing that those working for the Commission cannot be accused of the same vices. I will present some instances where I have found inconsistencies and doubts relating to your work on the Commission, and request that you reconcile each so that I may be assured your work left nothing to be desired.

1) The Report assumes that Oswald constructed a paper sack to contain the rifle, Exhibit 142. It presents the evidence that two of Oswald's prints were found on the bag. As you must realize, especially as a lawyer, this means Oswald <u>handled</u> the sack; it does not prove he <u>constructed</u> it. I have been able to find no citation of proof in the Report that Oswald specifically contructed the sack. However, you took the testimony of Depository employee Troy West, in which he stated Oswald never helped him wrap mail, and never--to his knowledge--was around the paper dispensors. West worked at the dispensors. (see volume 6, page 360) This might indicate it was <u>not</u> Oswald who made the sack, yet mention of it is absent from the Report.

Could you tell me a) why Mr. West's testimony is not mentioned in the Report when it at least indicates Oswald might not have made the sack and b) why no citation of proof that Oswald made the sack is

presented in the Report, if such proof exists.

2) In his testimony before you, eyewitness Howard Brennan told you that Lee Harvey Oswald in the police line-up Friday night was not wearing the same clothes as the man he saw in the Depository window. (see volume 3, page 161) You asked Mr. Brennan one question about this, pursued the matter no further, and ended his testimony. Further, the Report contains no reference to this statment by Mr. Brennan. Could you tell me why, although the Report quotes Mr. Brennan as saying Oswald was the man in the window, it does not quote him as saying the man in the window was not dressed that same as Oswald that day?

3) The Report states that Oswald left his roominghouse at approximately 1:03 p.m. that afternoon and killed officer Tippit at approximately 1:16 p.m. (see page 158 of the Report) While these times are approximates, the killing could not have occured later than 1:16 for it was broadcast over the police radio at that time, and Oswald could not have left his roominghouse prior to 1:00 for that is when he arrived there. No time reconstruction is presented in the Report to show that Oswald could have walked from his roominghouse to the site of the Tippit killing in the approximately 13 minutes he had. However, you personally walked that route and clocked it at 17 minutes and 45 seconds, indicating that Oswald could not have arrived in time to have been the Tippit murderer. You stated further that you did not walk the most direct route, though you do not give the time walking the most direct route would have taken. (see volume 6, page 434).

Could you tell me why the Report does not mention that it took you 17 and 3/4 minutes to walk what it says Oswald walked in 13 minutes and why you either did not give the time or did not learn the time the "direct" route would have taken?

4) The Report twice states that no Depository employee is known to have seen Oswald between 11:55 and 12:30 that afternoon, citing as the source Exhibit 1381, a collection of statements. (see pages 143 and 156) However, Exhibit 1381 almost never addresses this time period and most of the people quoted in it stated they did not see Oswald only at the time of the shots, <u>not</u> including some 35 minutes <u>prior</u> to the shots. Also, employee Eddie Piper testified that he saw Oswald on the first floor at 12:00 that day. (see volume 6, page 383) An FBI report of an interview with another employee, Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, states that she saw Oswald on the first floor a few minutes before 12:15. (see page 41 of Commission document #5) The fact that these two witnesses reported seeing Oswald between 12:00 and 12:15 is never mentioned in the Report.

Could you tell me why the Report states that it could find no one who saw Oswald in the building between 11:55 and 12:30 when at least two witnesses said they had seen Oswald on the first floor at this time, why in support of the Report's statement a source is cited which does not refer to the appropriate time period, and why Mrs. Arnold was never called as a witness before the Commission when she might have provided exculpatory evidence?

Your letter presents you as a man who is deeply concerned that the public not be misled by those who distort, misrepresent, and omit evidence. Therefore, I believe you will be able to reconcile the above inconsistencies in the record pertaining to your work for the Commission. Further, I believe that you would want to help me reconcile these inconsistencies to eliminate any possible room for doubt about the work of the Commission.

I am sure that your time is occupied with several matters. However, again considering your commitment to the truth, I am equally sure you will find the time to help me reconcile the evidence presented above.

Thanking you in advance for all your time and effort, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Howard Roffman
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